

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

means for receiving an ~~RF-modulated~~ optically encoded signal having a ~~modulation~~ frequency outside the AM and FM band and containing ~~baseband~~ audio content;

means for converting the received ~~RF-modulated~~ optically encoded signal into an RF modulated signal having a modulation frequency within the AM and/or FM band; and

means for transmitting the RF modulated signal having a modulation frequency within the AM and/or FM band to an audio reproduction apparatus for audibly reproducing the ~~baseband~~ audio content.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the ~~baseband~~ audio content is Internet audio content.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the means for converting comprises:

~~means for stripping a carrier signal modulated with the received RF-modulated signal;~~

optical-to-RF conversion circuitry;

a frequency tuning dial; and

an AM/FM selection switch, wherein the received ~~RF-modulated~~ optically encoded signal is converted by the means for converting to the RF modulated signal having signal characteristics according to particular settings of the frequency tuning dial and the AM/FM selection switch.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a switch for controlling the means for converting;

processing circuitry for processing the received ~~RF-modulated~~ optically encoded signal to obtain the ~~baseband~~ audio content; and

a speaker for receiving and audibly reproducing the ~~baseband~~ audio content of the processed ~~RF-modulated~~ optically encoded signal when the switch is positioned for bypassing the means for converting.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising means for communicating with at least one programming device capable of generating and sending at least one programming schedule to the apparatus.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising means for generating at least one programming schedule by receiving at least one user input.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein the means for generating at least one programming schedule further includes means for displaying at least one program-related item on a display, and wherein the at least one program-related displayed item can be selected via a control panel.
10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising means for switching the apparatus from a non-wireless operational mode to a ~~non-wireless~~ wireless operational mode for receiving audio content via a ~~hard-wired~~ wireless connection.
11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising means for translating information related to at least one programming schedule to at least one audio signal for audible reproduction by a speaker.
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising means for recording audio content, including the ~~baseband~~ audio content contained by the received optically encoded signal.
14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
means for receiving an optically encoded data ~~stream~~ signal containing audio content via a hard-wired connection;

means for ~~modulating~~ converting the ~~audio content of the~~ received optically encoded data stream signal to an RF modulated signal having a modulation frequency within the AM and/or FM band; and

means for transmitting the RF modulated signal having a modulation frequency within the AM and/or FM band to an audio reproduction apparatus for audibly reproducing the ~~baseband~~ audio content; and

means for generating at least one programming schedule by receiving at least one input indicative of at least one program-related item, wherein the at least one input can be received from one of a control panel of the apparatus and an external device.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein the audio content is audio content transmitted over the Internet.

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 14, further comprising a modem for transmitting signals representative of the received optically encoded data stream signal to an external device.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 14, further comprising means for switching the apparatus from a non-wireless operational mode to a wireless operational mode for receiving audio content via a wireless connection.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 14, further comprising means for translating information related to at least one programming schedule to at least one audio signal for audible reproduction by a speaker.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the means for converting comprises optical-to-RF conversion circuitry.

22. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein the means for converting comprises optical-to-RF conversion circuitry.

23. (New) A method for audibly reproducing audio content contained by an optically encoded signal, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving the optically encoded signal having a frequency outside the AM and FM band and containing audio content;

converting the received optically encoded signal into an RF modulated signal having a modulation frequency within the AM and/or FM band; and

transmitting the RF modulated signal having a modulation frequency within the AM and/or FM band to an audio reproduction apparatus for audibly reproducing the audio content.

24. (New) The method according to Claim 23, wherein the audio content is Internet audio content.

25. (New) The method according to Claim 23, further comprising the step of generating at least one programming schedule by receiving at least one user input.